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THE BEST ... Asiah showing her mother Aminah Fatimah Abang (left) the Chancellor Award 1997.



REWARD FOR ALL THE HARD WORK ... Mustaffa (left) with Foo.

It's a double joy for Asiah

KUCHING, Sat. — It was a double joy for 24-year-old Asiah Yusof of Kuching at Universiti Malaysia Sarawak's first convocation ceremony today.

She not only received her Bachelor of Science degree in Science and Aquaculture Resource Management (Science and Technology Resource Faculty) but was also named winner of the "Chancellor Award", Unimas' top award for excellence in academic and co-curricular activities.

"I am really honoured and surprised to receive this award because I personally feel that many of the other graduates were equally great," she said after the ceremony.

Asiah said she would fly off to the University of Sterling in Scotland on Aug 23 to pursue a masters degree course in aquaculture.

"My interest in this subject is based on the fact

that Sarawak has a great potential for growth in this industry which is slowly coming up.

"In addition to that, we also have many rivers, so I feel it is high time we made full use of their (rivers) resources," she added.

The grand ceremony this morning was held at the Dewan Santapan of the Sarawak State Legislative Assembly building in Petra Jaya.

The Yang di-Pertua Negeri Tun Ahmad Zaidi Adruce Muhammed Nor, who is also Unimas' Chancellor, was guest of honour.

Among those present were Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud, who is also Unimas' Pro-Chancellor, Unimas Vice-Chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Zawawi Ismail, Unimas council chairman Tan Sri Bujang Mohd Nor and Agriculture Minister Datuk Amar Dr Sulaiman Daud.

A total of 31 graduates received their Masters Degrees while 122 received Bachelor of Science degrees in various disciplines.

Of the MSc holders, six were for Information Technology, 23 for Cognitive Science and Human Resource Development, and one each for Engineering and Science & Technology Resource.

A total of 77 of the BSc recipients were graduates from the Faculty of Social Science, 40 from the Science and Technology Resource Faculty and five from the Engineering Faculty.

The function also saw the giving away of two "Royal Awards" for academic and co-curricular excellence.

The winners were Ipoh-born Foo Loke Min, 25, who graduated from the Social Science Faculty and Mustaffa Kamal Shamsudin, 30, of Muar, Johor, from the

Faculty of Science and Technology Resource.

Foo told reporters that he is presently working as a human resource training consultant in his hometown and that studying in Unimas was an eye opener for him.

"Before coming here, I've never seen such diverse cultures in an environment which is not only peaceful but well protected.

"Sarawak possesses so many good values which can enrich one's lives," said Foo who was instrumental in setting up the university's taekwondo club.

Mustaffa's advice to the undergraduates was that they must revise their work before and after every lecture if they want to excel in studies.

The father of four is presently working as general manager of his own family business.